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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/915,658	08/21/1997	JIGISH D TRIVEDI	MIO024PA	1803

7590 06/12/2003

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EXAMINER

PERALTA, GINETTE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2814

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/915,658

Applicant(s)

TRIVEDI, JIGISH D

Examiner

Ginette Peralta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 31-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. Claims 31-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. There is no disclosure in the specification or the drawings for the feature of an intermetallic compound separating the first refractory metal silicide from the second refractory metal silicide, in the disclosure there is only support for a local interconnect comprising a layer of metal, a layer of metal silicide and an intermetallic compound, but it is not specified where in the structure the intermetallic compound is located, thus there is no written support in the specification for "an intermetallic compound separating said first metal silicide from said second metal silicide". The limitation will not be given patentable weight in response to the amendment.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 31 to 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamoto (U.S. Pat. 4,910,578).

Okamoto teaches in Fig. 4D an interconnect comprising a composite structure comprising a first metal silicide 4, a second metal silicide 8, and an intermetallic compound 10 comprising metal from the first metal silicide and metal from the second metal silicide; wherein the first metal silicide may comprise titanium silicide (col. 4, l. 43) and the second metal silicide may comprise tungsten silicide (col. 6, l. 49-51), and the intermetallic compound 10 comprises titanium tungsten (TiW) (col. 6, l. 64-66).

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 35 to 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto (U.S. Pat. 4,910,578) in view of Shepard (U.S. Pat. 5,227,333).

Okamoto teaches in Fig. 4D an interconnect comprising a composite structure comprising a first metal silicide 4, a second metal silicide 8, and an intermetallic compound 10 comprising metal from the first metal silicide and metal from the second

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metal silicide; wherein the first metal silicide may comprise titanium silicide (col. 4, l. 43) and the second metal silicide may comprise tungsten silicide (col. 6, l. 49-51), and the intermetallic compound 10 comprises titanium tungsten (TiW) (col. 6, l. 64-66).

Okamoto teaches the claimed invention with the exception of showing a field effect transistor having a source, a drain and a gate, formed in the semiconductor layer.

However, Shepard shows a local interconnect for connecting source, drain or gate of a field effect transistor to another active area within a substrate assembly, the local interconnect comprises a composite structure that includes a plurality of metal silicide layers.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to connect a source, drain or gate to another area within a substrate assembly as taught by Shepard with an interconnect with a composite structure as the one taught by Okamoto in order to obtain a reliable interconnect that provides a good electrical contact to silicon and does not further react with the device contact region.

Furthermore, memory arrays are well known to be LSI circuits as discussed in Okamoto.

Furthermore, regarding the limitation of "an intermetallic compound formed by a reaction between said first metal silicide and said second metal silicide", the "formed by " part of the limitation is not considered since the method of forming a device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

*Response to Arguments*

6. Applicant's arguments filed 3/21/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argument's are directed to the newly added feature of the intermetallic compound separating the first metal silicide from the second metal silicide, as noted above this limitation has been rejected by 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as this limitation is neither taught in the specification nor shown in the drawings.

*Conclusion*

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ginette Peralta whose telephone number is (703)305-7722. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00 AM- 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on (703)308-49188-4918. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-7722 for regular communications and (703)308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

GP  
June 9, 2003

  
SUPERVISOR  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2814